

ADMINISTRATIVE-INTERNAL USE ONLY

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~~DDI-2421-75~~

DOCI-1198-75A

17 September 1975

1. Given the head of steam this project has built up, I believe the DCI should respond favorably to Secretary Clements' letter. The response need not be grudging; coverage of some of these topics is scattered about in our publications and there is merit in the concept of pulling the facts together.

2. To avoid another periodical publication that may have to be issued as frequently as once a month, I have considered running the requested material in one of our present publications--perhaps as a NIB annex. I doubt this would satisfy the requirement, but the idea could be tried out on Charles Sorrels--the moving force behind the Clements letter--when he comes out to discuss the project with [REDACTED] on Friday. If a NIB annex does not satisfy Sorrels, I believe we should agree to a separate publication, but one issued on a quarterly basis only. A highlights section could be used to serve the busy policy maker. A good argument can be made for quarterly publication. On most of the topics there is unlikely to be sufficient change or sufficient new information to warrant monthly coverage; when major developments occur, they will, of course, be covered in our regular publications.

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3. I believe we can improve on the suggested outline, especially its political sections. We would want to record visits by Soviet leaders to the Middle East and by Middle Eastern leaders to the USSR; the status of Soviet relations with the various Palestinian groups should be covered; we may also wish to cover at least major developments in relations between the East European countries and the countries of the Middle East. I view these sections as essentially descriptive of Soviet policy in the Middle East, however, and we should preserve maximum flexibility on the subject matter to be covered.

4. I believe this should be an inter-agency publication. The DDI offices should pick up some of the tasks but DIA should be assigned responsibility for a large chunk. I understand DIA expects to be asked. [redacted] may want to offer State a chance to participate, but I would leave that to him. OCI would cover the topics listed in sections two and three of the outline.

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5. Although it is tempting to shift the responsibility for management and production to DIA, I believe it should be kept in CIA. That seems to be what Clements wants and I am certain we would have a better product. If you agree, I would offer OCI as project manager; I think we could carry this burden without staggering, and the information developed in this systematic way would help us in other periodical reporting.

STATINTL

[redacted]
William K. Parmenter
Director of Current Intelligence

Attachment:
Reference

PLEASE HAND CARRY

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE
TO: <u>DCI/USSR-EE</u>		
ROOM NO. <u>7G25</u>	BUILDING <u>HQ</u>	
REMARKS: <i>Background on Middle East project. Linda has basic data on file. P.</i>		

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FORM NO. 241
1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 36-8
WHICH MAY BE USED.

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